



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS San Jose/Santa Clara
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October 6, 2003

City of San Jose Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force
151 West Mission Street
San Jose, CA 95110

Dear Task Force Members:

The League of Women Voters has long supported the development of communities that assure a diversity of housing, including affordable housing, neighborhood parks, accessible open space and a clean environment. We also recognize the importance of a sound economic base to assure employment opportunity and provide adequate services for the residents. The League strongly supports public participation in all phases of the planning process.

We are strongly committed to area development that provides an attractive and livable community for the residents that is not detrimental to the surrounding neighborhoods, communities or region.

In order to achieve such development in the Coyote Valley and for the City as a whole, the League believes that the report of the Coyote Valley Specific Plan Task Force should address the following concerns:

The Specific Plan should assure that there will be:

- o no deterioration of air quality
- o a sufficient supply of water, energy and sewer capacity
- o protection for the underground aquifer
- o adequate and convenient transit
- o pedestrian friendly neighborhoods with schools, parks, shopping and services
- o a variety of housing, including affordable housing
- o a balance of jobs and housing both in Coyote Valley and citywide
- o preservation of accessible open space and the hillsides
- o preservation of natural habitats in the area
- o a variety of employment opportunities
- o sufficient provision of health, social and educational services
- o mitigation for the loss of agriculture and habitat

What criteria will be used to assess these issues and who will determine them?

The Specific Plan should define the Greenbelt and specify its characteristics. How will the Greenbelt be incorporated as an integral part of the Plan? What Methods will be implemented to assure the preservation and enhancement of the Greenbelt?

How will the Specific Plan address the issue of existing development entitlements that may be inconsistent with the Plan?

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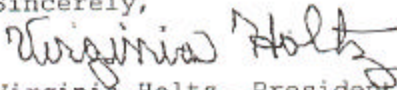
How will the development of Coyote Valley impact the proposal to bring BART to San Jose? Will Coyote Valley development drain away developer and city attention from the development intensification effort needed downtown to provide sufficient BART ridership to avoid large operating subsidies?

Will it be possible to build a desirable community in the Coyote Valley without negatively impacting the existing services for the city as a whole? What criteria will be used to assess the potential impacts? How will they be measured?

The Task Force must consider the positive and negative consequences to determine if it is possible to build a livable community of the size presently planned for the Valley, considering the environmental and economic constraints of the area. What development strategies will produce development at the intensity presently planned for the Valley?

As in all matters of public planning and policy, the Task Force should provide for full public participation at all stages of this process, from development of criteria to the final adoption of the Specific Plan.

Sincerely,



Virginia Holtz, President
League of Women Voters San Jose/Santa Clara